

Baker to visit Kuwait next week

WASHINGTON (R) — Secretary of State James Baker will visit Kuwait next week as part of his Middle East tour, State Department officials said Thursday. But they denied an earlier report quoting a senior U.S. official that his visit would take place as early as next Monday. Officials also said Mr. Baker was likely to visit Israel on his trip. Other stops would include Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Syria and Turkey. President George Bush announced Mr. Baker's Middle East trip in his television address but did not mention a visit to Kuwait City. Mr. Baker has been criticized by American Jewish groups for never having visited Israel. In the runup to the war, he travelled to the Middle East four times but avoided visiting the Jewish state for fear of alienating Arab members of the coalition. Now that the war is over, it was widely assumed that Mr. Baker would include a stop in the Jewish state. The United States and its partners have repeatedly pledged to make a serious effort to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict after the war with Iraq.



Volume 16 Number 4639

SPECIAL EDITION

AMMAN FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 1991, SHABAN 15, 1411

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Ceasefire in the Gulf

28-nation coalition, Iraq end military hostilities

War is stopped

Combined agency dispatches
ALLIED AND IRAQI forces suspended attacks Thursday and began the work of forging a peace.

Military officials said Thursday evening that they considered the ceasefire declared late Wednesday by U.S. President George Bush to be holding, despite reports of sporadic Iraqi fire.

Mr. Bush claimed a "quick, decisive and just" victory after Iraq pledged to accept all U.N. resolutions on Kuwait and ordered its forces to stop fighting.

The ceasefire that went into effect at midnight on Wednesday (1500 GMT) ended fighting for the first time since allied forces launched bombing attacks in the first phase of combat to drive Iraq from Kuwait it took over on Aug. 2.

"Kuwait is liberated. Iraq's army is defeated," Mr. Bush said in his seven-minute speech on Wednesday night. "Our military objectives are met."

Six weeks to the day after he ordered a U.S.-led alliance to fight Iraq, Mr. Bush said the bloodshed could end.

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said U.S. troops might be able to start coming home within days.

"... ending tonight eastern standard time, exactly 100 hours."

since ground operations commenced and six weeks since the start of Operation Desert Storm, all U.S. and coalition forces will suspend offensive combat operations," Mr. Bush said.

Baghdad Radio said in a broadcast following Mr. Bush's speech that Iraq would not bow its head to anyone and was "as sharp as the edge of the sword."

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein Thursday ordered his troops to stop fighting three hours after the allied ceasefire took effect.

Western diplomats at the United Nations said early on Thursday that Iraq had accepted all 12 U.N. resolutions adopted since its invasion of Kuwait without conditions.

Mr. Bush who staked his presidency on rolling back the Iraqi invasion, said the allies were suspending military operations contingent on a cessation of Iraqi hostilities and an end of missile attacks on Saudi Arabia and Israel.

"It is up to Iraq whether this suspension on the part of the coalition becomes a permanent ceasefire," he said.

He called for Iraqi military commanders to meet allied commanders in 48 hours to arrange the release of prisoners of war as

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IN SOLIDARITY: Thousands of people demonstrate in Amman Thursday in support of Iraq (see page 3)

Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan

U.S. to set terms for peace today

Combined agency dispatches

THE UNITED STATES plans to propose a resolution outlining Gulf war peace terms to the United Nations Security Council Friday, a State Department spokeswoman said Thursday.

U.S. officials are consulting on details with allies in the coalition against Iraq and expect this "would result in a new resolution that we would take to the Security Council at the earliest opportunity, probably no later than tomorrow," spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler told reporters.

Diplomats said the majority of the council members, led by the United States and Britain, want to resolve outstanding questions such as the exchange of prisoners of war and abducted civilians before formally ending hostilities.

Hours after U.S. President George Bush announced a ceasefire in the Gulf war, Iraq accepted the coalition's conditions for suspending military action after making several previous peace offers that the allies considered unacceptable.

The Security Council met behind closed doors late Thursday, moving to consider the situation and Iraq's position, contained in a letter to the council and to Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar. The council also took note of the allies' provisional ceasefire.

Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri said Jordan hoped that the ceasefire would lead to a formal ceasefire resolution issued by the U.N. Security Council and pave the way for a permanent settlement of the conflict.

At this point in time, Mr. Izzedine told the Jordan Times, "what is important is to have a

Jordan hopes for quick diplomatic peace process

Kingdom urges relief efforts for Iraqis

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan Thursday welcomed the ceasefire in the Gulf war and expressed hope that the truce would be formally confirmed and lead to a permanent solution to the conflict. The Kingdom also called for immediate moves to address the humanitarian needs of the Iraqi people who have been under some of the heaviest bombardments in history for the last six weeks.

Jordanian officials and politicians expressed hope that a diplomatic process would get off the ground soon not only to resolve the Gulf conflict but also to address the fundamental Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine problem.

Information Minister Ibrahim Izzedine said: "We hope that the killing has ended and the door will be open for international agencies to provide urgent relief and end the sufferings of the Iraqi people."

At this point in time, Mr. Izzedine told the Jordan Times, "what is important is to have a

proper ceasefire in place which will allow the Iraqi people to get what they need urgently."

The minister expressed hope at an earlier press briefing that diplomacy would take over from the ceasefire on the ground and "end this ugly war so that we can move into the post-war era."

"This was a war that Jordan was totally against," he said. "We are relieved that it has ended now."

Optimism that the war has finally come to an end was also expressed by the speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament as well as parliament members.

But several other parliamentarians, officials and politicians contacted by the Jordan Times said they were relieved that the ceasefire had ended the military conflict — and "the killing of civilians and massive devastation of Iraq" as one senator put it —

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Jordan refutes charge

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Thursday categorically denied reports that it had supplied arms and ammunition to Iraq in violation of the international embargo imposed on Baghdad following the Aug. 2 Iraqi takeover of Kuwait.

"We are surprised at such reports which are carried without proper verification," said an official spokesman. "We reject such reports and reiterate that Jordan has not supplied Iraq with any weapon or any other military equipment after the Gulf crisis erupted on Aug. 2," the spokesman said in a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency.

Patra.

The statement came in response to international agency reports which quoted unidentified American military intelligence sources as saying that the allied forces in Iraq had found weapons allegedly supplied by Jordan after the U.N. Security Council imposed the international embargo on Iraq.

These weapons, according to the reports, included rocket launchers, bombs, mortars and ammunition.

The Jordanian spokesman recalled that it was not the first time that Jordan had faced such allegations.

He said that Jordan, in line with an agreement with both Saudi Arabia and Iraq, had negotiated with China on behalf of Iraq to procure Chinese-made weapons during 1981, one year after the Iran-Iraq war began.

These weapons, which were of the same description as cited in the latest reports, were delivered to the Iraqi authorities through the Saudi port of Al Qudsain in coordination with the Saudi armed forces during the Iran-Iraq war, the spokesman said.

"These supplies," the spokesman noted, "came at a time of

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Iraq orders truce, says it has won

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQ ORDERED its soldiers to stop fighting Thursday after an allied ceasefire announced by U.S. President George Bush and then it had won the Gulf war.

A military spokesman noted that the allied suspension of combat would "save the blood of our sons and the safety of our people."

"We are happy for the halt in fighting," the spokesman said on Baghdad Radio.

"Therefore, orders were issued to all our units at the battlefield not to open fire. God is great," he said.

It was the first official announcement since Iraq accepted two more U.N. Security Council resolutions necessary for peace.

The radio throughout the day aired inspirational songs and commentary saying that the Republican Guards were able to defeat the allies and compel them from Iraq after.

"The guards have broken up

Israel lifts alert, but keeps curfew

Combined agency dispatches

ISRAEL LIFTED its emergency alert for Iraqi missile attacks Thursday after guns fell silent in the Gulf war.

"We ask citizens now to pack up their protection kits (gas masks), to put them back in their original wrappings and to unseal their rooms," army spokesman Brigadier-General Nachman Shai announced on Israeli radio.

Gen. Shai referred to protective measures in force since the start of the Gulf war as a precaution against Iraqi threats to use chemical weapons against Israel.

During the war Iraq fired 39 missiles at the Jewish state, all with conventional warheads.

The lifting of the emergency did not affect the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. They remain under travel restrictions and night-time curfews, an army spokesman said. The occupied territories also remain closed to outsiders, including journalists.

Israel also demanded that Iraqi

(Continued on page 5)

President Saddam Hussein be toppled.

Yossi Ben-Aharon, director-general of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's office, said in a radio interview the Iraqi people must remove president Saddam for the good of their country, the Arab World and "obviously for us."

Israel Radio said U.S. Secretary of State James Baker would visit Israel for the first time during a Middle East tour next week. Washington said only that he was coming to the region.

"I have to say that I won't feel that the war is over if Saddam Hussein stays on as president of Iraq," said Israeli President Chaim Herzog.

Deputy Foreign Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said: "We can certainly welcome the glittering victory of the United States and its allies. "But he demanded the elimination of Iraqi missiles to remove any threat to Israel.

Israeli commentators focused

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Iraqis bitter over treachery of Arabs'

From Lamis Andoni
in Baghdad

THE JUBILANT barrage of Kalashnikov shots fired in the air at day break told only part of the story of the sad city. Gloom faces and paired eyes on the streets of Baghdad revealed the injured pride of a fighting nation.

Five hours after the U.S. declaration of a ceasefire, relief was tinged with sadness in Baghdad.

"Of course we wanted peace, we are relieved that war will be over," said a young grocer. "But at what price..." he asked dropping his eyes in unspeakable sorrow.

The Iraqi feeling that they were abandoned by other Arabs and giving up Kuwait regardless of Iraq's historical claims to the oil rich emirate, has given way to frustration and a critical reassessment of virtually everything, they say.

There was a sense of silent anger on the streets of Baghdad, an anger which has not been vented yet. Iraqi officials say that they understand the muted anger and realise that it cannot be ignored. In general the Iraqi leadership, over the last two weeks, appeared to have redirected its priorities to accommodate the people as it became apparent that it had to rely basically on domestic support.

A young attractive woman said that she was also waiting for her brother. "I am waiting," 25-year-old Maha said. But Maha, as many other Iraqis, is able to see beyond her personal sorrow

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fifteen. Right has prevailed."

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl called the outcome "a victory of justice over injustice, a victory of freedom over violence."

Huge joint efforts are needed to find negotiated solutions to all problems of the region — including the Palestinian question and Lebanon. At the same time, Israel's security must be guaranteed," Mr. Kohl said.

Some looked ahead to rebuilding the Gulf region, others pledged troops for a U.N. force.

"Kuwait has been liberated and one of the most remarkable military campaigns of all time has been concluded," said Prime Minister John Major of Britain, a leading alliance member. "Our troops have performed magnificently."

However, what Iraqis might not be able to overcome easily is their feeling of betrayal by other Arabs. "They left us alone to confront 28 countries," is the phrase which was repeated by many Iraqis Thursday.

The Iraqi feeling that they were abandoned by other Arabs and giving up Kuwait regardless of Iraq's historical claims to the oil rich emirate, has given way to frustration and a critical reassessment of virtually everything, they say.

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Iran warns allies against meddling in Iraq

Combined agency dispatches

IRANIAN LEADERS said Thursday they opposed the dismemberment of Iraq or the setting up of a puppet government by victorious U.S.-led allies.

Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati stressed that the future of Iraq must be decided by the Iraqi people, and warned the allies not to interfere, Tehran Radio reported.

The broadcast quoted Mr. Velayati as saying that Iran was "opposed to foreign intervention in the future of the people of Iraq."

Mr. Velayati's comments came hours after U.S. President George Bush declared a ceasefire in the Gulf war, following Iraq's

acceptance of all U.N. Security Council resolutions passed against it during the crisis.

Speaking to clerics and students of Islamic science in Tehran Mr. Velayati said that Iraq's invasion of Kuwait had to be challenged, "but not by people who never did or will ever consider the interests of Islam and the Muslims."

Iran has stressed that the regional countries must maintain security in the Gulf.

Two Tehran newspapers said now was the time for Iran to press for reparations for the eight-year conflict with Iraq which caused Iran damage officially estimated at one thousand billion dollars.

Many Iranians believe Tehran will use Iraqi planes which fled to

Iran over the past weeks as leverage in any negotiations on reparations.

The planes, said by the allies to number about 150, include some of Iraq's combat aircraft, each worth tens of millions of dollars.

Neutral Iran said during the war that it would keep the planes until the end of hostilities.

Israeli post in Lebanon rocketed

NABATIYEH, Lebanon (Agencies) — Resistance fighters launched a rocket attack on an Israeli outpost in South Lebanon Thursday in defiance of Lebanese army authority in the region, police said.

The said Israeli gunners retaliated by shelling the army-controlled villages of Habiboun and Kfar Rumman from which the four Soviet-designed rockets were launched.

There was no immediate report of casualties or damage.

In another development, a 20-man strong group from the mainstream Palestinian Fatah faction withdrew from olive groves in Iqam Al Tufah to the north of Habboush after it was besieged by the army for three days.

A police spokesman said army scouts "located the guerrilla band" near the village of Sarba three days ago.

Sarba is a tiny mountain village in the province, (10 kilometres) north of Habboush.

"The army blocked all supply lines to the guerrilla band and ordered it to withdraw. The guerrillas withdrew around noon (1000 GMT) Thursday after they ran out of supplies," said the police spokesman.

He said the guerrilla withdrawal was "achieved peacefully. There were no clashes. The army escorted them to the vicinity of the Palestinian refugee camp of Ain Al Hilweh."

Ain Al Hilweh, the largest Palestinian refugee camp in Lebanon, is southeast of the port city of Sidon, which is not policed by the Lebanese army.

The rocket attack, according to the police spokesman, targeted the Israeli-controlled Suwaida hill, which is in Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone" of South Lebanon.

Israeli gunners retaliated about noon local time (0900 GMT) by shelling Kfar Rumman, adjacent to Nabatih, and Habboush, three kilometres north of the market town, with tank fire, the spokesman said.

About 2,000 Lebanese troops moved into South Lebanon Feb. 6, hoping to assert control over the region which has been used by Palestinian and other groups over the past 16 years to launch resistance attacks against Israel. Most guerrillas in the area agreed to cede control to the army.

Israel maintained the 1,100-square-kilometre "security zone" when it withdrew the bulk of its invading army from South Lebanon in the summer of 1985.

The zone, policed by some 1,000 Israeli troops and 3,000 allied militiamen of the South Lebanon Army, extends from the Mediterranean coast in the west to the slopes of Mount Hermon in the east.

The strip is intended to serve as a buffer against cross-border guerrilla infiltrations into northern Israel.

At the height of the Gulf war, which broke out Jan. 17, resistance fighters launched a barrage of rockets at Israeli targets in what some reports suggested was opening of a "second Gulf war front."

More than 1,000 Israeli soldiers and the 5,000-strong pro-Israeli South Lebanon Army patrol the "security zone."

The entry to the region by Lebanese government soldiers has not affected the "security zone."

Hurd, Baker discuss post-war scenario

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said Wednesday they hoped the Gulf conflict had made Arabs and Israelis more willing to work to end their disputes.

The two ministers, who met for more than an hour to discuss post-Gulf war peace efforts, also raised the prospect that the U.S.-led alliance would retain sanctions on Iraq after the war has ended.

Mr. Baker, speaking to reporters at the U.S. State Department, said settling the age-old Arab-Israeli conflict was one of the alliance's post-war goals.

But he stressed "you are not going to make progress on Arab-Israeli peace unless the parties themselves really want to make progress."

He noted the war would "change things quite substantially in the region."

"At the first appropriate opportunity... we'd like to see the degree to which they (Arabs and Israelis) are interested in intensively pursuing peace, how involved they would like to become and specifically what contributions each side would want to make to this process," Mr. Baker said.

Nevertheless, "the world community has to try again in the hope that the shock that everyone in the Middle East has endured... in these last months will produce a new impetus, will produce maybe some fresh thinking, some willingness to consider ideas which were rejected before," Mr. Hurd said.

Later, he told a press conference that a mechanism for dealing with this issue, which Iraq had tried to link directly to the Gulf crisis, had not yet been worked out.

Mr. Baker and Mr. Hurd, close allies in the war effort, said they would work closely in peace efforts, although they warned bringing stability to the region would not be easy.

One key question is what to do about air-tight sanctions imposed on Iraq by the U.N. Security Council last August in an effort to persuade Baghdad to withdraw peacefully from Kuwait.

Mr. Hurd, after meeting President George Bush at the White House Wednesday, declared the sanctions must remain in effect after the war until all issues, such as the release of prisoners of war and the payment of reparations, are resolved.

"I would expect the sanctions to remain on once the fighting has stopped," Mr. Hurd said. He declined to say how long the embargo would stay in effect, adding "that will depend on the policies of whatever government there is in Iraq."

Mr. Baker later said that as long as Saddam Hussein remains in power the Security Council "at the very least" should retain an arms embargo to prevent Iraq from rearming.

The Los Angeles Times reported the Bush administration was forging a strategy to prompt a coup in Baghdad by preventing President Saddam from rebuilding Iraq's war-shattered economy.

It quoted senior U.S. officials as saying the United States intended to maintain economic sanctions that block Iraqi oil exports, depriving Baghdad of vital income needed to recover from massive allied bombing raids.

Iraq, in offering to end the war, has called for the immediate lifting of sanctions, but the U.S.-led alliance has refused, demanding full compliance with all U.N. resolutions.

Britain's force of 43,000 soldiers, airmen and sailors is the second-largest non-Arab contingent in the alliance fighting Iraq, after that of the United States.

On Thursday, Mr. Baker was meet French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas and Friday, German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher. Mr. Bush was also to meet with both men.

Britain and France are key allies in the U.S.-led coalition against Iraq and have made a heavy commitment of troops of the multinational effort. Germany's contribution has been mostly financial.

Hawke: No end to crisis

Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke said Thursday the issue of a Palestinian homeland must be resolved in order to end the crisis in the Middle East.

"We must understand that an end to the war would not be the end of the crisis," Mr. Hawke told reporters after President Bush said allies would suspend combat operations at 0500 GMT.

Mr. Hawke said the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leadership "has done enormous damage to its credibility by the way in which it has conducted itself during this conflict."

But he added there should be a distinction between the Palestinian people and the PLO.

Mr. Hawke cited the security of Israel, the rights of Palestinians and the position of Lebanon as key issues to be addressed in a post-war Middle East.

U.S. army engineers poised to spearhead Kuwait reconstruction

By Martin Morris
The Associated Press

DHAHRAN — U.S. military engineers in Kuwait are gearing up to clear rubble, repair streets and rebuild seaports under a 90-day emergency programme financed by the emirate's government.

Kuwaiti officials estimate it will cost at least \$50 billion to rebuild their country and already have signed 171 contracts with U.S. companies. Others have been awarded to several allied nations.

The U.S. army corps of engineers was awarded the \$45-million contract to run the first 90 days of the cleanup. They will not begin before they get the go-ahead from allied military authorities that the city is safe.

Only sketchy reports are available on the extent of destruction. But reports from the city say there is no water or electricity, and Kuwaiti officials doubt there will be telephone service or medical supplies.

Mehran Nakhjavani, an expert on the Kuwaiti economy who teaches at Montreal's McGill University, said the emirate's desalination plants were destroyed.

Such plants are delicate and, if damaged, could well have to be rebuilt from scratch inside the shell of their old building, Mr. Nakhjavani said. That would take at least three months.

Associated Press reported John King reported from Kuwait City that the city's main power station as well as a backup facility had been destroyed.

Unlike desalination plants, power plant equipment such as turbines is quite robust and some stations could be brought back on line within about a month, Mr. Nakhjavani said.

Mr. King said the roads from the Saudi border were pockmarked with shell holes. Chunks of splintered oil pipelines littered the main north-south highway.

That damage, though extensive, can be repaired quite quickly. More serious are the cracks in many highway bridges, the results both of allied bombardment and heavy pounding from Iraqi military vehicles that overloaded the bridges.

Abdul Latif Al Hamad, who heads the Kuwait-based Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, said officials were worried that too many Kuwaitis might flood back home in a hurry as strain overstretched resources.

One of the first priorities is to bring in several satellite dishes to provide international phone lines so exiled Kuwaitis can contact their families and make sure they're safe.

"That way, we can cool down the desire to rush into Kuwait," said Mr. Al Hamad, who moved his headquarters to a temporary office in Bahrain after the Aug. 2

Iraqi invasion.

The largest question mark hangs over the oil industry. About 600 oil wells, half of Kuwait's producing capacity.

If the explosives that set the fires were placed on the surface of the wells, the damage would be spectacular but not that difficult to repair. The fire can be put out because it is on the surface, and the wellhead equipment replaced.

But if the Iraqis sank explosives down the wells themselves and detonated them underground, the damage would be much more extensive.

He said it was conceivable that some of the underground oil reservoirs themselves were damaged. In that case, they would have to be completely sealed off and new wells re-drilled elsewhere in the area.

That would be a painstaking task requiring detailed surveys by sensitive seismological monitors, which cannot work properly if artillery, or the explosions from mine clearance, are going off even dozens of kilometers away.

Mr. Nakhjavani said the Kuwaiti government would put a high priority on restoring some kind of oil production quickly.

He estimated the emirate could produce 100,000 to 200,000 barrels of crude a day within four to six weeks from undamaged wells, after pipelines to the sea have been patched and a makeshift mooring terminal erected.

But Kuwait's central bank governor, Sheikh Salem Al Sabah, estimated Wednesday that nine months may be needed before oil production can resume. The varying estimates are a result of the extreme uncertainty as to the amount of damage.

Kuwait was producing more than 1.6 million barrels of oil a day before the Iraqi invasion. There have been some estimates from Kuwaiti officials that pre-war production levels could be restored within a year to 18 months, but Mr. Nakhjavani called that "just a stab in the dark. No one has any idea."

It will take longer to repair Kuwait's three sophisticated refineries, which processed a total of 750,000 barrels of oil a day.

British share

Ten British firms are among an international group of companies shortlisted for lucrative contracts to be awarded next week for emergency repair work in Kuwait.

A total of 36 firms will present bids to the U.S. corps of engineers.

Company representatives said the firms were given 48 hours Wednesday to submit detailed bids for the contracts.

Limited role seen for Japan in Kuwait reconstruction

TOKYO (R) — Japan had a greater world diplomatic role may have been dashed by its difficulty taking a clear stance on the Gulf war, political analysts said on Thursday.

"I don't think Japan will be providing any political leadership," said Robert Orr, a political scientist and director of the Stanford Centre Japan. "They can do a lot of things, but political leadership isn't one of them."

Though Tokyo came out firmly in support of the U.S.-led war to evict Iraq from Kuwait, Japan and Germany were the only group of seven nations not to commit at least a token force to the Gulf.

A bid that would have paved the way to send Japanese troops to the Gulf in non-combat roles died in parliament last November after critics said it would violate Japan's peace constitution, drafted by U.S. occupation forces after World War II.

Instead, Tokyo chose to contribute money.

However, its decision last September to give \$4 billion was delayed by weeks of agonized debate.

A pledge of another \$9 billion after the war started, coupled with an offer to send military planes to help evacuate refugees, won only lukewarm public support and required a deal with opposition parties to assure passage in parliament.

"As for Japan's international role, both the Gulf issue and the GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) negotiations test the nature of Japan's contribution to reviving the international system..." U.S. Ambassador to Japan Michael Armacost told Reuters in an interview earlier this week.

But Kuwait's central bank governor, Sheikh Salem Al Sabah, estimated Wednesday that nine months may be needed before oil production can resume. The spokesman also said that about 150 doctors from the Algerian and Tunisian Red Crescent would be flying into the Iraqi capital this week to reinforce Red Cross medical staff already there. The ICRC added that it was sending three water purification machines, each capable of distilling 80,000 litres per day, as Baghdad's water supply system had broken down.

The spokesman said foreigners in Kuwait, such as those who do not have diplomatic representation or Palestinians without official status, could be protected under the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, which deals with civilians in time of war. "We will go to verify that all these groups will have the same access to hospitals as other civilians, will have the same treatment, will have the same food and will not meet any special problem because of their nationality," he said.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Japan to unfreeze Kuwaiti assets

TOKYO (R) — Japan's ministry of finance will allow seven Kuwaiti banks to draw on their bank deposits and other financial assets in Japan from March 18, a ministry official said Thursday. Kuwaiti assets in Japan were frozen shortly after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on Aug. 2 to avoid withdrawals by Iraq, he said. The decision was made after a request from Kuwait's central bank and was in line with similar decisions taken by the U.S. Treasury Department and the Bank of England earlier this week, he said. The ministry has asked banks and brokerages to check carefully that deposit withdrawals, money transfers, and sales of stocks and bonds are authentic.

Dynamite attack on Kuwaiti firms in Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — Dynamite exploded early Thursday outside the Beirut offices of two companies linked to Kuwait, causing minor damage but no casualties, witnesses said. They said a man threw a stick of dynamite into the entrance of a building where the Bank of Lebanon and Kuwait and Kuwait Airways have offices. The blast, a few hours before a ceasefire was declared in the Gulf, brought to 26 the number of the attacks in Lebanon on interests linked to the U.S.-led coalition at war with Iraq.

Rocket aimed at French embassy

BEIRUT (AP) — Police said Thursday that they had foiled a rocket attack against the French embassy in west Beirut's Clemenceau Street. A short police statement said the rocket was defused Wednesday by a sapper "a few minutes before the launching time." The statement said the rocket was attached to a timing device and a mine-volt battery. It did not disclose further details. The abortive attack was the latest in a series of such attempts. On Wednesday, a stick of dynamite exploded at the French Cultural Centre in the northern port city of Tripoli, causing damage but no casualties.

Red Cross set to go to Kuwait

GENEVA (R) — The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) will soon send representatives into Kuwait for the first time since Iraq invaded the emirate last August, a spokesman said. The humanitarian agency will send eight Swiss delegates from Bahrain in the next day or two who will survey medical needs and make sure all civilians are treated fairly, regardless of nationality. The spokesman also said that about 150 doctors from the Algerian and Tunisian Red Crescent would be flying into the Iraqi capital this week to reinforce Red Cross medical staff already there. The ICRC added that it was sending three water purification machines, each capable of distilling 80,000 litres per day, as Baghdad's water supply system had broken down. The spokesman said foreigners in Kuwait, such as those who do not have diplomatic representation or Palestinians without official status, could be protected under the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, which deals with civilians in time of war. "We will go to verify that all these groups will have the same access to hospitals as other civilians, will have the same treatment, will have the same food and will not meet any special problem because of their nationality," he said.

Dutch team to visit Kuwait next week

THE HAGUE (R) — A Dutch government delegation will visit Kuwait next week to discuss with Kuwaiti officials the rebuilding of their country in the aftermath of the Gulf war, officials said Thursday. The Dutch Economics Ministry said the delegation, headed by Joop Veling, the ambassador to Kuwait, will offer technical assistance programmes to be subsidised by the Netherlands. Prospects for Dutch firms to participate in the post-war reconstruction of Kuwait will also be discussed, a government spokesman added.

Two reservists first U.S. women killed in Gulf

GREENSBURG, Pennsylvania (R) — Two young women reservists were among those killed in an Iraqi missile attack on a U.S. army barracks in Saudi Arabia, military officials said. They were the first U.S. female soldiers to die in the Gulf war. They were identified as reservists Christine Mays, 22, of Rochester Mills, Pennsylvania, and Beverly Clark, 23, of Armagh, Pennsylvania. Both were members of the 14th Quartermaster Detachment. The two women were among 29 U.S. soldiers killed Monday when a scud slammed into a U.S. army barracks in Saudi Arabia. At least 11 of the 29 dead were believed to be from the 14th and another reserve unit headquartered in western Pennsylvania, officials said.

Kuwait will not sell Spanish assets

MADRID (R) — Kuwait will not withdraw investments in Spain to help pay for its reconstruction programme following the Gulf war, Spanish Economy Minister Carlos Solchaga said. He told reporters that the Kuwait Investment Office (KIO) has given guarantees to the Spanish government that it would not sell assets here to raise funds. The KIO's main interests in Spain are held by Grupo Torras SA, one of the country's biggest industrial groups in which it has a controlling stake. The KIO has never revealed the value of its investments in Spain. Mr. Solchaga earlier told a joint committee on European community affairs that the negative impact on Spain's economy of the Gulf war would be less than first feared. He noted that the economy would benefit from oil prices seen fluctuating between \$15 to \$20 a barrel, well below the \$25 estimated by the government for the 1991 budget. He said 1991 would be a year of transition for the Spanish economy, in which the government would be hoping for a narrowing of the current account deficit and lower inflation. Success on those fronts would help bring down interest rates, he added.

U.S. ambassador due in Kuwait

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. ambassador to Kuwait was to return to his embassy Thursday by which time the Kuwaiti government was expected to have taken control of the country, a senior State Department official said late Wednesday. State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tuftwiler

Jordan marks 35th anniversary of Arabising the Jordanian army

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Friday marks the 35th anniversary of Arabising the Jordanian armed forces. On March 1, 1956, King Hussein ordered the termination of the services of the then commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces John Glubb and the other foreign leaders, and entrusted Jordanian officers with the command of the armed forces.

This move constituted an extremely important step in view of its timing, as it came at a critical stage of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the dangers posed by the Israeli occupation of Palestine. The step was also a historical turning point, which sparked nationalist and pan-Arab feelings, and demonstrated Jordan's keen interest in ridding itself of the foreign hegemony. The move also reflected His Majesty King Hussein's resolve to build a strong army, capable of defending the homeland and serving the interests of the people.

Since that time, King Hussein has been giving his full attention

to the armed forces and has made every possible effort to provide this army with the most advanced weapons and military equipment to enable it to undertake the duties assigned to it.

On the occasion, Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Fadi Abu Taleb sent a cable to King Hussein, expressing his and the armed forces' congratulations and best wishes on this occasion.

In his cable, Abu Taleb voiced

the forces' pride in the leadership

of His Majesty King Hussein and their allegiance to his person.

He said that the King's historic step

came amid difficult and crucial

circumstances in the Arab World

and crowned the struggle of the

vanguards who led the Great Arab Revolt and sought to uphold its principles and achieve its

objectives. Gen. Abu Taleb said

that the Arab Nation has faced

many challenges targeted at de-

stroying its order, civilisation and culture, but was able to overcome

them with stronger resolve and

strength to face any challenge.

Government considers second oil tanker

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian government is currently studying leasing a second oil tanker with a 50,000 tonne capacity to maintain sufficient supplies of crude oil in the kingdom, according to an official statement issued Thursday by the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources.

The government last month announced that purchase of a 100,000 tonne capacity tanker to be stationed at Aqaba Port at the cost of \$7.5 million.

According to the announcement Thursday, the oil tanker named Al Azraq has now arrived at Aqaba laden with 90,000 tonnes of crude oil bought from Yemen. The tanker has been bought in conjunction with the Jordan National Shipping Lines.

This is the first time in which the Kingdom buys crude oil from Yemen in this manner, the announcement noted.

Earlier this month, Syria agreed to sell oil to Jordan to make up for the shortfalls from Iraq, and some of that oil has already arrived by truck.

Prime Minister Muad Badran said that the first five trucks loaded with oil and four others filled with gas arrived last Saturday and others are on their way. He said in a statement to the

Jordan Times that Jordan was buying 30,000 tonnes of oil from Syria at market rates.

Jordanian officials had said

that Jordan consumed 50,000 barrels of oil daily, but the influx of 300,000 Jordanians with 25,000 cars from Iraq and Kuwait had pushed the demand up to 65,000 barrels prompting the government to ration petrol and to allow private cars to run on alternate days only.

Oil experts said Iraq was supplying Jordan with about 40,000 barrels of oil every day before some of its facilities were hit in allied bombardment which began Jan. 17 and war planes started strafing Jordanian tankers ferrying oil from Iraq to the Kingdom.

Earlier this month, Canada announced that it would come to Jordan's help and would cover the cost of buying oil at open market prices to compensate for cheaper Iraqi oil which Jordan imported at the price of \$16 a barrel.

Iraq supplied the oil repayment for debt incurred during the 1980-1988 Iraq-Iran war. According to Mr. Badran the debt now stood at \$236 million, down from what some officials said, exceeded \$1 billion at one point.

JANDA lauds King's position

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Arab National Democratic Alliance (JANDA) Thursday lauded His Majesty King Hussein's principled position which rejects bowing down to political and economic pressures and opposes foreign aggression against the Iraqi and Palestinian people. Retired Army Lieutenant General Mashhour Haditha of JANDA affirmed in a cable he sent Thursday to King Hussein JANDA's support for the King. JANDA also called for strengthening links between the members and the leaderships of the one people in Iraq, Jordan and Palestine to be able to confront the common enemy and abort all the "enemy's plots and evil designs."

Sboul inspects relief centre

AMMAN (Petra) — Amman governor Jawdat Al Sboul who is also chairman of Amman governorate Civil Defence Department Thursday inspected a relief and first aid centre established by the Jordanian Hashemite Charitable Committee for Relief, Development and Arab Cooperation at the International Auto Centre in Marj Al Hamam area. Sboul was briefed by the director of the centre, which includes a field hospital and a refugee camp, on the activities of the centre and the services it provides in emergency cases.

Parliament delegation ends Turkey visit

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian parliamentary delegation returned home from Turkey Thursday after a several day visit during which it met with several Turkish parliamentarians and heads of Turkish parties. The delegation comprised deputies Ali Al Faqir and Fuad Khalafat.

Financial course ends

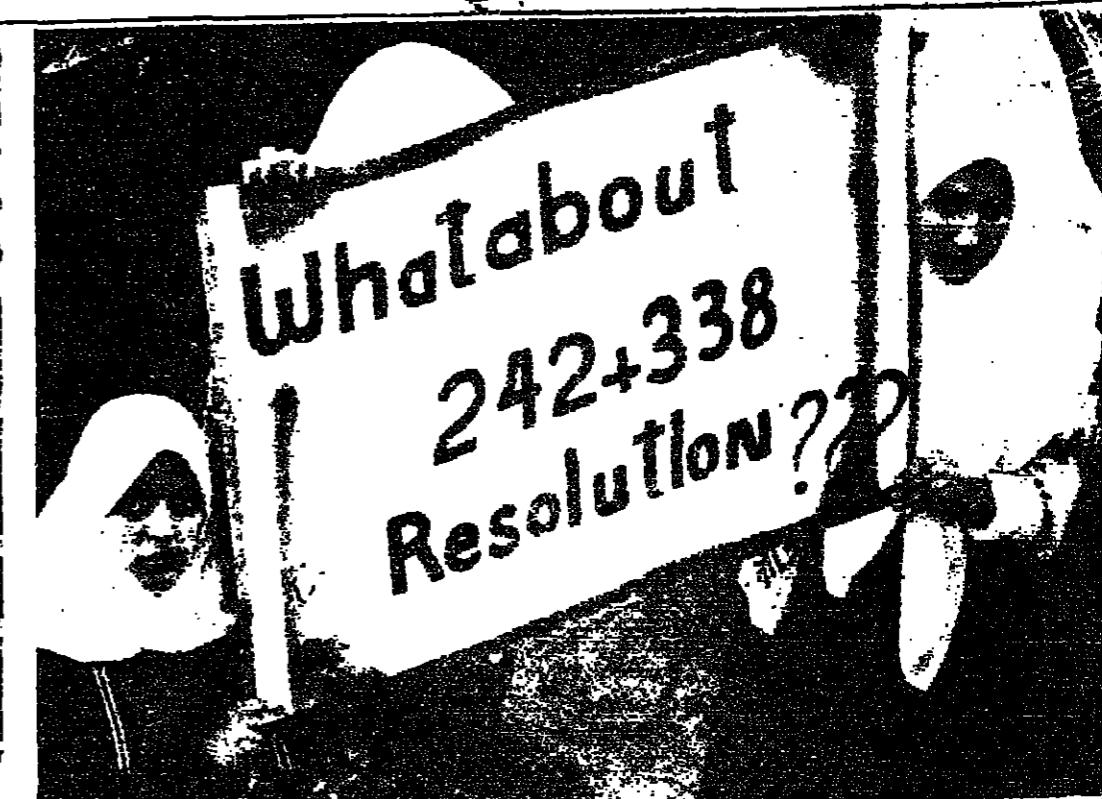
AMMAN (Petra) — A week-long training programme on dealing with foreign currency and monetary markets was concluded here Thursday. The programme, organised by Jordan's Institute of Management, was aimed at giving participants a better perspective on the dealings of foreign currency and to the dangers inherent in such dealings. Taking part in this programme were several officials from various financial, commercial and industrial institutions. Another week-long training programme on the use of computers in accounting and finance sections organised for managers and officials from various industrial, financial and service institutions was also concluded Thursday.

Abbad, Gharalbeh discuss land

IRBID (Petra) — Irbid governor Fayed Al Abbad met Thursday with the director general of the Land and Registration Department, Ali Al Gharalbeh. Abbad and Gharalbeh discussed the activities of the department in Irbid Governorate and issues related to parcelation of land.



Demonstrators gather at the Hashimite Square in downtown Amman Thursday after a 6-kilometre march from the Abdali bus terminal (photo by Yousef Al 'Alas)



10,000 demonstrate in solidarity with Iraq

By Seraea Hakeem
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Around 10,000 people marched through the streets of Amman Thursday, in a show of solidarity with Iraq. It was the single biggest pro-Iraq rally held in Jordan since the eruption of the war in the Gulf on Jan. 17.

The demonstrators carried banners that supported the steadfastness of the Iraqi people in the face of the heavy bombardment and ground attacks by the 30-member, U.S.-led coalition against Iraq.

On the other hand, some people were more cautious in their reaction towards the ceasefire. "I

don't think this is end. On the contrary, this is the beginning of a very dangerous stage in this conflict. I believe this is a truce not a total ceasefire," Mohammad Taleb told the Jordan Times. He attributed his scepticism to the fact that it was a decision taken by George Bush and not the United Nations Security Council. "Usually when you have a ceasefire, the U.N. Security Council is the one that orders it," Taleb said.

Another demonstrator, Rushdie Alqam, said that he believed

the United States made a grave mistake by following the withdrawing Iraqi forces into their territories. "Now the Iraqis are fighting for their sovereignty and are more willing to sacrifice in order to maintain their integrity," he said. "American penetration into Iraqi territory is aimed at occupying this territory and using it as a bargaining chip against the Iraqis," Alqam added.

A professor in political science, Dr. Shehab Al-Hafez, said that the Iraqis became convinced when the Americans entered

their borders that "the aim of the aggressors was not to liberate Kuwait but to destroy Iraq's military, economic and social infrastructures."

"Destroying Iraq is part of America's new world order," he said. "I think that Saddam's acceptance of all 12 U.N. resolutions put the U.S. in a very tight spot. Now they have to tackle the Palestinian problem, they can no longer ignore it."

Saddam revived the Palestinian problem, and established the spirit of jihad," Ibrahim Atiyeh, a student at the University of Jordan said. "He broke the myth

that Israel was untouchable, and brought the Palestinian cause into the limelight," he added.

The demonstration was organised by Jordanian professional association and labour unions.

Some demonstrators were glad that hostilities were over, but showed disappointment with the role of some Arab nations in the region. "We could have taken this chance to solve all the outstanding problems in the region if some Arab nations played a more active role and joined hands with Iraq," a young demonstrator who withheld his name said.

Anti-coalition protest spreads to elite school

By Sama Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The bitterness towards the United States and the West that grew among Jordanians since the Gulf crisis started on Aug. 2 — and the bombardment of Iraq by the U.S.-led alliance for forty days — has infected pupils of one of Jordan's top schools, the Amman Baccalaureate School (ABS).

Driven by a strong feeling of Arab nationalism, about 200 pupils of the private school Wednesday went on strike for three periods (about two and a half hours) not only to support Iraq, but also to demand the resignation of their British headmaster and head of the senior school.

Mais Darwazah, a 15-year-old tenth-grader, told the Jordan Times that about 200 of the junior and high school pupils marched in the campus carrying Iraqi flags and chanting pro-Iraqi slogans.

During the march, the high-school pupils were able to attract the children from the elementary school who defied their teachers to join the demonstration, she said.

She added that the marchers ended up in front of the administration and demanded the resignation of their headmaster and head of the senior school, Boyd Roberts and Nick Bowley respectively.

Neither could be reached by the Jordan Times for comment.

"We demanded an Arab administration for the school," Mais said, adding that they chanted, "Out, out, we want an Arab administration."

"It is very frustrating that all other schools go out on demonstrations in Amman and we are not even told about them," Mais said.

He added that after he and

representatives from the stu-

dents body met with the board, they explained to him that they needed Mr. Roberts "because there was no Arab or Jordanian who qualifies for this position because contacts are needed with the outside."

Sharifa Zain Nasser, the director of ABS's fundraising and development, described the discussion between the representatives of the students and members of the board as "very open with no hard feelings."

She told the Jordan Times that the board explained the policy of the school, adding that the students had only felt let down by the expatriate teachers who left the country.

"It was explained to them that the school was a non-profit organisation headed by the Hashemite Society for Education, and told them that we prefer to have Arab and Jordanian teachers," Sharifa Zain said. "But sometimes you can't find the qualified teacher needed and have to employ non-Arabs."

She predicted that there will be other marches within the campus, but marches in support of Iraq.

A 15-year-old tawjihi pupil who did not want to be identified by name told the Jordan Times that the student council president had promised the students that the foreign administration would resign.

Mais insisted that Arabs were needed in the administration positions. "For our school to work right, our principles must be Arab and think the way we do," she said.

The pupil who requested anonymity said that her colleagues had given the British administrators until Saturday to resign.

What if nothing happens? "We'll protest again until they do," she said.

Iraq's objectives achieved — Iraqi official

By Saeed Kilarji
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — "(The real) war has just begun. Our role was to implant the seed of goodness in the soul of every Arab and Muslim individual, and we have succeeded in doing that. The war has proved that this Arab Nation is capable of defeating any aggression no matter how strong and violent it is," said Mohammad Al Hayali, head of the Professional Union Complex in Iraq, who is on a temporary visit to Amman.

Mr. Hayali expressed satisfaction and content over the current events and what he saw at the victory of the Iraqis and described this experience as evidence that the Arab Nation will "stay alive" and will not die; "especially if there exists a national and sincere leadership that shoulders the Arab yearning for unified national action to liberate our territories and preserve our dignity."

Mr. Hayali confirmed that a

solution to the Palestinian question, being a priority in Iraq's plans, will soon be found. "Certainly the Palestinian issue will be addressed. We hope that an international conference will be held, because this is what we aimed at in the first place and it was an essential part of our programme," he maintained.

However, the Iraqis were evidently disappointed with other Arab countries' stands during the ground war, according to Mr. Hayali. "I put the blame on all Arab regimes. We have not experienced until now any real national stand with Iraq," he said.

"We had hopes that the Arab street would do more than just holding marches and giving speeches that have not served to achieve anything. There must have been more than this emotional and routine state of condemnation and denunciation that shoulders the Arab yearning for unified national action to liberate our territories and preserve our dignity."

Mr. Hayali confirmed that a

was also attributed by Mr. Hayali to the envy and animosity of many leaders, as well as Western media's news blackout during the ground war. "Misinformation has succeeded in affecting Arab peoples psychologically," he said. "It was aimed at destroying and weakening the Arab spirit through its poisonous means and devious methods."

However, Iraq's military machine has not been destroyed and a great part of it remained intact, according to Mr. Hayali. "The well-organised Iraqi withdrawal proves that," he explained. "The 110,000 raid on Iraq did not cause any retreat or fear on the part of the Iraqis. On the contrary, it reinforced their stand and made them more committed to national principles and morals in defending the castle of Arabism," he stressed.

"Saddam is a man who does not fear anything and who has faith in national causes," Mr. Hayali said. "He knows no defeat."

SENATE:

The Upper House of Parliament Tuesday discussed articles of the provisional law of the Higher Court of Justice. The Senators approved several articles of the proposed law and made slight amendments to others. The Senate, meeting under the chairmanship of its speaker Ahmed Al-Lawai, adjourned its discussion of the Higher Court of Justice's provisional law for further consultations with its legal committee. The Senate also decided to postpone a presentation by Prime Minister Muad Badran on the political situation in the region to another closed session, and until new information about the situation in the Gulf is made available.

TERMS

(Continued from page 1)

The council meeting broke up in the afternoon with no indication that a formal meeting would be held soon to adopt an official ceasefire.

Kuwaiti Ambassador Mohammad Al-Hassan said it was agreed that the Security Council would soon adopt an official ceasefire.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar said he was ready to send in U.N. peacekeeping to monitor a ceasefire, if asked by the council.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) demanded Thursday that the Security Council enforce its resolutions against Israel the same way it did against Iraq.

"All efforts should now be deployed with the view of resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict, with the same rapidity as that which settled the Gulf crisis, on a basis of international legal validity," said Yasser Arafat, PLO leader.

Mr. Arafat, a member of the PLO's Executive Committee, urged all Arab countries to pressure the Security Council to prove no double standard exists in the Middle East.

World

(Continued from page 1)

U.N. vote that authorised force against Iraq.

Egypt's Information Minister Saif Al-Sherif said his government will speed up establishment of an Arab-based security system to facilitate the pullout of non-Arab coalition forces.

Across Europe and Asia, governments voiced relief that the shooting had stopped. Some looked further, to long-term Middle East peace and reconstruction in the war zone.

"The end of military activities, after the misery that we have seen and heard in the past weeks, is to be welcomed," said Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky. "It is also to be welcomed that a spoke has been put in the wheels of an aggressor."

Norway offered humanitarian aid. Belgium said it was ready to treat Iraqi wounded. Japan said it would aid Kuwait.

"This was a day of victory for the U.N.," said Danish Foreign Minister Uffe Ellermann-Jensen.

Jordan, like us

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1971

الجordan times

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Beyond the war

THE WAR is over! The immense suffering, the human tragedy, the massive devastation that it has caused will be with us for a long time to come. Was it all necessary? Could it have been avoided? These and many other questions will be asked. Volumes will be written on this war. But is it too early to tell whether convincing — or correct — answers can ever be found, whether memory of the nightmare will ever fade?

For most of us here in Jordan, the war was not only senseless, but pointless as well. Members of the coalition, particularly its leader the U.S., see things in different light. We will probably never see eye to eye with them on this one. In the long term, history will be the judge. For now, one has to look ahead. The lessons learned will have to be put to good use. Iraq is down but not out. It will have to be rebuilt and reconstructed. So will Kuwait. So will the damage that has to be repaired, the destruction that has to be reversed. The enemy, the bitterness, the hatred have to be replaced with bridges of mutual respect and understanding. It will be a stupendous task, but nevertheless one that has to be undertaken and accomplished.

Central to this endeavour will be efforts to resolve all outstanding problems and issues that plague this part of the world. Sincerity, depth, fairness and justice will have to be the guidelines.

The Palestinian problem has to be tackled and solved right away — not at the expense of the PLO or the legitimate rights and aspirations of the Palestinian people. A settlement that is honourable and lasting has to be found, addressing rights where they have to be addressed and reaching roots that have to be reached. A formula for distributing wealth has to be devised. The poorer nations will not have to beg for subsistence and help. The rich will have to give. The less fortunate cannot possibly be expected to remain unfortunate for very long.

Democracy, freedom and independence are inalienable rights that cannot be denied to any people or state. Tyranny and monopolies and repression will have to end. The so-called guardians of human rights cannot be selective in applying their standards and principles. Every man and woman has the right to be free. Everybody is equal before God and the law.

Mass destruction weapons have to be eliminated from this region, if not from the face of the earth. Double standards and selectivity in applying rules to one state rather than the other should not be tolerated. Hypocrisy and duplicity, particularly by the West, have led to war and destruction. They could do the same in the future if they stay unchanged.

Foreign forces and troops will have to go back to where they came from. The era of colonialism is gone for ever. And the peoples of the region have to themselves take care of their security and the stability of their world. Recipes made or imposed by others cannot work. They will backfire the moment they are introduced.

The Arab World will have to find itself again. Continued division and fratricide will not serve the cause of peace and progress. The Arabs will have to realise that fissures in their ranks have nearly caused their whole world to explode like a bomb. Finally, victory cannot be claimed by any side or party to this war. Victory can be claimed only when peace is made and only by those who make it.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE UNITED States is wrong to imagine that with its aggression, it has imposed its respect and hegemony on the Arabs and Muslims, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Thursday. Indeed, with flagrant aggression the United States' credibility is at its lowest ebb, not only due to the huge losses it has suffered in the war, but also because it has enlisted the help of 20 nations to assist it in aggression on an Arab country, the paper pointed out. With the Iraq withdrawal from Kuwait, the reason for continuing the war has ended, and the United Nations Security Council resolutions have been met, and therefore any attempt to pursue the war on the part of the U.S.-led alliance simply means a breach of the United Nations charter and all international rules, the paper said. What the United States is doing now is carrying out an invasion of a sovereign state and member of the United Nations organisation, for the only reason of maintaining its drive to destroy Iraq and the Iraqi people, the paper added. It said that this shameful American action is bound to sow the seeds of bitterness and enmity for the United States in the whole Arab region, and Washington's continued show of arrogance is bound to destabilise security and peace, and deal a detrimental blow to the future of the whole region. The consequences of continued aggression on Iraq, the paper noted, can by no means be in favour of the United States, because the Arabs have realised by now that the aggression is directed against the whole Arab nation and is designed to achieve Israel's expansionist goals. Therefore, it said, the Arabs bound to take whatever measures they can and utilise all available means to defend themselves and thwart the aggressors' conspiracies and aims.

Now that Iraq has pulled out its forces from Kuwait and recognised all U.N. Security Council resolutions, why should the United States, which had bragged about the need for Iraq to meet these requirements to stop the fighting, continue to invade Iraqi territory? asked Sawi Al Shaab Arabic daily. The world community now fully realises the fact that Bush and his allies have violated the international legality in order to achieve their own selfish aims in Iraq, and impose hegemony on the Arab World, said the paper. When the aggression started, the allied forces justified their raids on Iraqi cities and their barbaric crimes on the civilian population of Iraq by stressing that this was needed in order to force Iraq out of Kuwait, the paper noted. Now that the Iraqis are out of Kuwait and have recognised all the U.N. Security Council resolutions, there can be no justification or excuse for any U.S. soldier to fire a single shot on the Iraqi side, said the paper. But it added, should the aggression continue and the conspiracies sustain, the Iraqis know how to defend their land and their future and will by no means enable the aggressors to achieve their evil goals.

After the devastation, the light: A time to rebuild Iraq

By Dr. Shamil Kubba

THE DENTERITY, valour and stoicism of the Arab Nation, of which Iraq and its heroic people are an integral part, needs no elucidation. Likewise, the infinite resilience of this great nation to overcome and absorb enormous tragedy and hardship is legendary.

Even during these dark hours, with the scent of death saturating the air, many Arab and foreign economists see in the country's destruction an analogy with the destruction of Germany and Japan during the Second World War. These economists are confident that once this numinous war is over, Iraq too will witness a great building and technological boom, perhaps, the greatest in the country's glorious 19,000-year history.

This does not mean that the

country's rebuilding process will be all honey and roses. Indeed, many difficulties will continue to confront the people of Iraq — no matter who is in power. Not least of all is the expected avalanche of international litigation that looms over the horizon, particularly regarding war reparations.

However, many other pertinent questions also need to be asked, addressed and answered. For example, will post-war Iraq be liable for debts incurred prior to the invasion of Kuwait, or will these debts be forfeited? Also, what of the United Nations' resolutions, will they be nullified? And who will pay for the mass destruction that has been inflicted on Iraq? Will it be the Iraqi people who bear the brunt of the cost, or will the international community offer meaningful financial and technical assistance?

If the Iraqi people are forced to foot such an enormous bill, from their own resources, how it proposes to do so, is a \$4 billion question. With the price of oil dropping significantly and the value of the American dollar systematically and deliberately falling, the Iraqi people may have to endure years of austerity. Optimistic estimates suggest that it would take at least a decade to rebuild Iraq, resulting in a bill somewhere in the region of \$150-200 billion.

Yet not a single specialist has even started to undertake a detailed analysis of what will take place, once the war is over. One thing is certain however, a task force — either Iraqi or from the United Nations — needs to be set up urgently, and begin a survey of the devastated and destroyed that has taken place in the region. Once the magnitude of

the catastrophe is assessed, proposals can be put forward on how best to rebuild the country and get it on its feet again.

Unlike the Kuwaitis and Saudis, a large percentage of Iraqis are highly educated and possess considerable expertise. They will therefore demand to play a major role in the planning and management of any post-war reconstruction programme, rather than merely dash out the money, as is normally the case with the Kuwaitis and Saudis.

As part of its strategy for a quick recovery, Iraq will need to rely heavily on friendly states (assuming no radical leadership changes take place) like Jordan (for manufactured products), Sudan and Yemen (for labour) and some of the Eastern bloc countries like the Soviet Union, China,

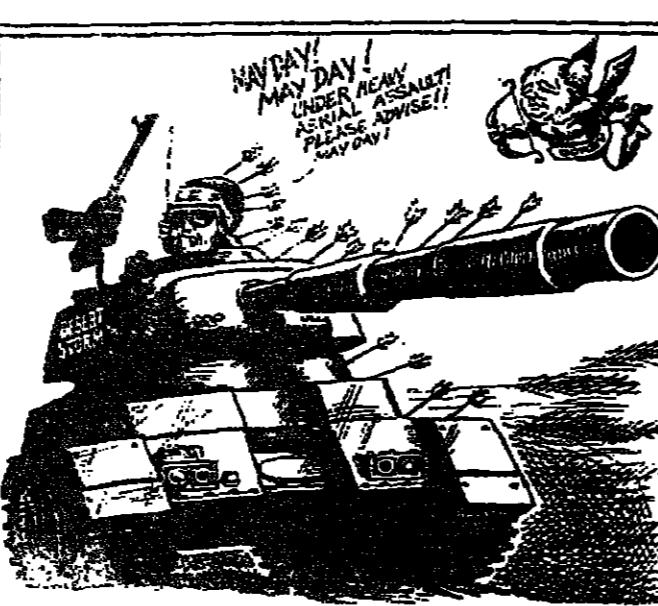
Yugoslavia and North Korea for the undertaking of large building projects and certain expertise regarding the repair of oil refineries, etc. Close cooperation with Iran is expected. Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, on the other hand, will be looking largely to American firms for assistance in their rebuilding programmes, and secondly to British and French firms. Since these western firms will be employed for specialised tasks, it is unlikely that their presence will have any significant effect on the coalition's ability to pull themselves out of their economic recession.

Finally, the only way the Arabs will ever succeed in controlling their own destiny is by becoming self-sufficient, particularly in agriculture. One way to do this is for Arab countries to form a "Common Arab Economic Market" and to purchase as little as possible from outside this community.

roads, etc. There will probably be a massive use of prefabricated building systems. But the top priority must be to return basic services as soon as possible.

As in the past, many of the contracts will be negotiated directly as opposed to issuing tenders, which are often time consuming, and it seems likely that in Iraq for example, many contracts will go to firms from countries that supported Iraq in the Gulf war, and secondly, those that played a neutral role.

Finally, the only way the Arabs will ever succeed in controlling their own destiny is by becoming self-sufficient, particularly in agriculture. One way to do this is for Arab countries to form a "Common Arab Economic Market" and to purchase as little as possible from outside this community.



Kremlin power play underpins push for peace

By Thomas Ginsberg
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — The allied forces' apparently crushing defeat of Iraq is spurring a political assault in Moscow against one of Mikhail Gorbachev's last strongholds of reform: foreign policy.

Traditionalists in the military and government are rising in the void left by former Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and are putting pressure on the president to block U.S. domination in the Middle East, Soviet analysts say.

And the West's rejection of Gorbachev's peace efforts may hold sway even over Shevardnadze's replacement, Alexander Bessmertnykh, who has not yet built his own constituency at the foreign ministry after six years as ambassador to Washington.

Kortunov also said the Soviet military is apprehensive about a dominant role by the U.S. military in Iraq, which was once securely in the Soviet camp. Another analyst, Vladimir Nosenko, said some generals clearly favour keeping Saddam in power.

The United States has made no secret of its desire for Saddam's departure.

One Soviet general already has warned publicly about the fighting, which is near the Soviet Union's southern border, and said anti-aircraft batteries were on the alert.

Moscow long has maintained a strong force in heavily Muslim Soviet central Asia and the Caucasus republics of Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia. The military has short-range missiles, tank battalions and infantry regiments in the area.

Another pressure point on Gorbachev comes from Soviet Muslims, who number an estimated 80 million in a country of 280 million. Some signs of pro-Iraq sentiment already have surfaced, including formation of a "young Saddamites" group in central Asia.

While they have not united so far against Gorbachev for supporting the anti-Iraq alliance, there is widespread fear they could rebel if the Kremlin sits by while their religious brethren in Iraq are put under the Western thumb.

Soviet experts said Kremlin leaders envision a new regional security pact under U.N. auspices that would include the five Security Council members — the United States, Soviet Union, France, Britain and China — along with all major regional powers, including Israel and Iraq. It would be formed during a regional peace conference after the war.

Apparently anticipating criticism, Gorbachev's spokesman Vitaly Ignatenko tried to portray the failed Soviet peace effort as at least as good in U.S.-Soviet relations. He told reporters that Gorbachev discussed the war with Bush "in a traditional spirit of trust. It was a consensus of two great statesmen fully aware of their responsibility."

Shevardnadze, an architect of the Soviet foreign policy that brought about the better U.S.-Soviet ties, resigned last December warning of a coming dictatorship. While his stern words were directed to domestic politics, his absence has cleared the way for changes in foreign policy, too, experts

said.

President Adviser Yevgeny Primakov, an old Iraqi hand, is leading a faction that "wants to save face for Saddam," said Andrei Kortunov, an analyst at the Institute for World Economics and International Relations.

Gorbachev, furiously pursued a ten-day peace effort last week before the ground

went to war.

The efforts followed weeks of warnings in the media and by Soviet officials, including Gorbachev, that the United States is not beyond the U.N. Security Council resolutions in the war against Iraq.

Gorbachev is making some concessions to the military, but that doesn't mean he is guided by it," said Sergey Semenov, deputy director of the Institute for World Economics and International Relations.

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Scientists fear ancient sites of Mesopotamia hit

By Mike Feinsilber
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Every bomb that falls on Iraq hits Mesopotamia underneath, the place where civilisation started. Now, American planners, wary lest the fighting sweep away treasures of the ancient world, are turning to an expert for advice.

"These remains are a priceless heritage for all mankind," nine scholars wrote recently in an appeal to President George Bush to protect the historic and archaeological sites and museums of Iraq.

Since then, one of the scholars, Robert Adams, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, has been asked by the government for information on what sites to avoid.

"It is my understanding that they asked him for information and he supplied that information," Smithsonian spokeswoman Madeline Jacobs said Tuesday. "I don't know what the specific information was and I don't know if it was the CIA. It was government officials."

Archaeologists who have worked in southern Iraq are holding their breath and hoping that war will not shatter the treasures there that still inspire wonder and contain clues to mysteries lingering over the dawn of civilisation.

"Iraq is one big archaeological site," said Donald Hansen of New York University, who has been excavating there for 35 years and would be digging now if it weren't for the war. "None of us know anything specifically, but one can only assume, with all that bombing, that some things have been damaged."

Some scholars think future generations will look upon anyone who destroys Iraq's buried history as barbarians. And they suggested as much in their letter to Mr. Bush.

In World War II, allied bombers spared German-occupied Paris, "the city of light," and avoided hitting such rich repositories as the Vatican in Rome and the emperor's palace in Tokyo.

"If we were waging war on Egypt, we would be a lot more reverent," said the University of Chicago's McGraw Gibson. "No one would dare bomb King Tut's tomb or the Pyramids, he said."

Since 1964, Mr. Gibson has been digging at Nippur, which for

6,000 years was the seat of the Mesopotamian religion.

Ten or 15 metres beneath the sands of Iraq are perhaps half a million sites, including 100 or 200 ancient cities, most still uncovered. They are the stuff of history yet to be recorded.

They offer to tell what life was like in the place where Judeo-Christian ideas were first conceived, where mankind learned to write, to codify law and to raise crops and animals. It is where Abraham, the progenitor of the Hebrews, was born and where both Jonah of the Bible and the whale who swallowed him are said to be buried.

Gibson said scholars could list 20 crucial places that should be spared. Because no damage has been reported at the excavations at Babylon, near the industrial city of Hillah, he thinks allied commanders have declared that site off-limits.

In their letter to Mr. Bush, Mr. Adams and his eight fellow scholars said that "accident, miscalculation and uncertainty play a major part in every war."

They added they could "only solemnly urge that all parties to the hostilities take every possible measure to protect them and to avoid military operations in their immediate vicinity."

"International crime or carelessness leading to their destruction would almost equally darken the record of any nation or individual responsible."

Gerold Cooper of Johns Hopkins University is sensitive to the perception that his profession worries more about what the war is doing to objects than to people.

Not so, he said, but "we worry about the material damage because this is where we work, this is our career."

Some archaeologists remain optimistic that Iraq's antiquities will outlast the war.

"Buried sites will not be too badly injured," predicted Gus W. van Beek of the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History. "It must be remembered that they built with sun-dried mud brick, which would absorb a shock better than a rigid building."

Added Mr. Cooper: "The great danger to antiquities is not the stuff in the ground, but the things that have been restored and put on display."

Hostilities
(Continued from page 1)

well as detained Kuwaitis and pinpoint the location of mines and booby traps.

Fewer than 100 Americans were reported killed in the fighting — a toll that allied Gulf commander General Norman Schwarzkopf called miraculous. But Mr. Bush cautioned against euphoria or gloating, and his spokesman talked of difficult days ahead.

"All we've said here tonight is we've won the military battle, its over. We're going to suspend military operations because we've achieved our objectives and there's no sense going on," spokesman Fitzwater said.

"We still have to resolve the ceasefire question and the U.N.

Returning British soldiers will face mental battles

By Caroline Allen
Reuter

LONDON — As British troops finally join combat in the Gulf, veterans of past wars are warning of psychological battles to come when the men get home.

Grim tales of an ex-gunner who would go to sleep for days for want of his dreams or a downed pilot whose leg still aches if a door slams are just movie nightmares, says Tim Lynch, a veteran of the 1982 Falklands war between Britain and Argentina.

"But mostly it's not a case of screaming if a car backfires. It is how your whole quality of life suffers," said Lynch. "I fear for the future. We are not ready for what is coming."

A former medic and radio operator who evacuated wounded after Falklands' battles, Lynch is now organising telephone helplines through which veterans can counsel soldiers back from the Gulf.

After Falklands, it took

Lynch years to begin picking up the pieces of his own life and start his psychological recovery.

"It is limbo, just being stalled at certain moments," he said in an interview. "You feel guilty about surviving and you see how many people blame soldiers for a war after it's over."

His slow climb back was helped by joining Lincoln University's clinical psychologist Roderick Ormer in a study of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) among 53 Falklands veterans.

PTSD was officially recognised in the United States only in 1980 after research into why many American soldiers took their own lives after returning from Vietnam.

At London's Maudeley Hospital, Dr. Tim Wykes has worked with traumatised survivors of the Herald of Free Enterprise ferry which capsized in the English Channel in 1987 with the loss of about 200 lives.

She says combatants show similar stress symptoms, anything from mild panic attacks to physical paralysis. They need reassuring that they responded normally to an abnormal situation.

But for soldiers, the ordeal is

estimating 85,000 to 100,000 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded, the Washington Post said in Thursday's editions.

U.S. officials said Washington would press for continued sanctions to keep President Saddam from rebuilding Iraq's forces.

In his speech, Mr. Bush tacitly urged the Iraqi people to topple President Saddam.

"Coalition forces fought this war only as a last resort, and look forward to the day when Iraq is led by people prepared to live in peace with their neighbours," he said.

At least 126 allied troops were killed in the fighting. Iraqi casualties were far, far higher. The Saudi ambassador to Washington, Prince Bandar Ben Sultan, quoted Saudi military sources as

stating that the war had cost

compounded by notions of heroism and bravery.

Lynch's father and grandfather both served in the army. "When I joined it was assumed I knew what I was letting myself in for," said Lynch, who signed up aged 16. "It's the John Wayne syndrome — great pressure to keep you emotions in check."

Veterans of the two world wars might call PTSD batdeeshock or shellshock. "What we went through is not new," Lynch said. "But we have had little contact with those from the world wars... perhaps it's the generation gap."

Lynch says he has more in common with Horacio Benitez, an Argentine Falklands veteran whose factory outside Buenos Aires uses its profits to pay for counselling for former comrades.

After several Falklands combatants published harrowing accounts of the war, Britain's Royal Navy set up psychiatric counselling units. But it remains a sensitive topic.

"Like any other requirement, the medical and psychological needs of our servicemen are fully met," said a ministry of defence public relations official. He refused further details.

Lincoln University's Ormer said a soldier's first defence against stress would be getting enough food and sleep, and help from colleagues. Then, the sooner they can talk through their experiences, the better.

Lynch added: "It means coming to terms with what you did... what you had to do, witnessing... whatever you witnessed."

So far, British families have not seen a flood of body-bags bringing loved ones home from war against Iraq. But fear of chemical war, and television images of captured British pilots have raised the national stress level.

Military and civilian Gulf support groups say they are already swamped with distraught enquiries about alienation and have seen their friends' bodies.

"Families are putting a brave face on it but emotional problems are coming through," said Chris Hogg of the Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen's Association.

Billions told reporters that U.S., Britain and Arab forces had set up road blocks on the highway to Iraq's second city of Basra to prevent Iraqi men or equipment getting through.

Allied military officials said the ceasefire in the Gulf war was holding, but reported a few violations including an incident in which Iraqi tanks exchanged fire with U.S. forces.

The U.S. military spokesman, Brig. Gen. Richard Neal, said Iraqi T-55 tanks and multiple rocket launchers fired on elements of the 18th airborne corps that were trying to remove the remains of U.S. airmen who were killed in a helicopter crash.

He said that in addition to the incident he described, there had been several other ceasefire violations, as expected.

resolution question and all those issues, so we still have some very difficult days ahead in terms of getting compliance," Mr. Fitzwater added.

Military sources said in London the allies had taken 175,000 Iraqis prisoner in the war.

The sources in London said Iraq lost 3,500 of its 4,200 tanks, suggesting that up to 700 may have escaped the battlefield.

The allies also knocked out 2,000 Iraqi artillery guns, out of 3,000 in Kuwait and southern Iraq, and 2,000 of the 2,700 armoured troop carriers in the area, according to spokesman.

Britain's armoured division was among allied forces deployed in southern Iraq Thursday to block the road from Kuwait to Basra, the British Gulf commander said.

Lieutenant-General Peter de la

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Towards 3rd circle

PRESS CENTER Facilities
R.P.

Moscow sees its 'success'

Combined agency dispatches

Jordan

(Continued from page 1)

but declined to make any comment on the political impact saying they thought it was premature to do so.

"I am too overwhelmed by the fast developments to collect my thoughts and make any statement," said a parliamentarian.

"It is a time for reflection, and for everyone in the Arab World to assess the situation and evaluate our actions to find out where we were right and where we were wrong," said an Upper House member, also former minister but who preferred anonymity.

Al Lawzi, Speaker of the Upper House (Senate), said the ceasefire has come in the line which Jordan has always pursued. "Even before the war started, we have been exerting efforts at all levels to resolve the crisis through peaceful means," Mr. Lawzi pointed out, referring to Jordan's diplomatic moves within the Arab World and the international military operations.

"We welcome the liberation of Kuwait and the restoration of its lawful government... for the first time the international community has shown unified will in the face of the seizure of one state by another."

Anatoly Lukyanov, chairman of the national legislature of the Soviet Union, said Thursday the Gulf ceasefire is a "major victory for the foreign political initiative of our president."

Mr. Gorbachev tried to broker a peace agreement with Iraq, Moscow's former ally and a major weapons purchaser. But none of the agreements reached with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz during two weeks of diplomacy were acceptable to the allies.

"There is no doubt," said Speaker Lukyanov, "that, apart from anything else, this is a great victory for the foreign policy initiative of our president."

The last Soviet plan, forged largely by Gorbachev and Aziz at a midnight meeting in the Kremlin a few days before Sunday's land attack, allowed three weeks for an Iraqi withdrawal.

Moscow urged Washington to accept its plan and Mr. Gorbachev's envoy, Yevgeny Primakov, said the allies would bear full responsibility if they rejected it. His warning echoed growing criticism of the alliance in hardline communist newspapers.

But President Bush said the proposal fell short of Iraqi acceptance of all United Nations resolutions condemning its Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait. It also delayed any withdrawal beyond acceptance deadlines.

Soviet Television news showed parts of Mr. Bush's Wednesday night speech in which he warned the alliance could resume fighting if Iraq failed to meet its demands for capitulation.

Mr. Gorbachev added a note of uncertainty to Soviet-U.S. ties on Tuesday by saying in a speech that progress in relations was still "fragile." But Kremlin officials stressed that differences during the war should not endanger those ties.

Asked about the remarks by Mr. Gorbachev, Mr. Bessmertnykh replied:

"President Gorbachev said there were elements of fragility in U.S.-Soviet relations and I fully agree with that. When subjective factors take the upper hand there appear concerns that relations might be thrown back."

He added: "Taking account of this fragility, I'd like to express my confidence our relations will overcome this stage of subjective matters... like during the Iraqi conflict, our relations succeeded in overcoming these differences."

foreign intervention."

"This cannot be done under the threat of guns," he said. "We hope there would be a quick process which would lead to the evacuation of all foreign forces from the Gulf."

Dr. Arabyat said the so-called "new world order" espoused by U.S. President George Bush "should be closely examined by everyone to find out what it means and will entail and who will figure in what way in it."

"I do not think that anyone in the Arab World accepts the new world order if what happened in the Gulf is any indication," he said.

Bahjat Talhouni, a senator and a former prime minister, also noted that Jordan had been seeking a peaceful resolution to the Gulf conflict ever since the Aug. 2 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

"His Majesty the King visited the U.S. and 12 other countries in pursuit of peace before the war began," Mr. Talhouni noted.

With the ceasefire, Mr. Talhouni said, "Jordan hopes that security and stability will be restored not only to the Gulf region but also to the entire Middle East with just and comprehensive solutions to all problems of the region."

"Jordan always wanted peace and dialogue, and we now hope that the ceasefire would lead to substantive diplomacy and negotiations to resolve the basic conflict which led to the war," Mr. Lawzi told the Jordan Times.

Mr. Lawzi, a former prime minister, emphasised the need for direct negotiations between Iraq and Kuwait to resolve their dispute over territory and oil. "Unless this problem is resolved to the satisfaction of all parties concerned, there is very little hope that other issues in the region could be addressed and settled comprehensively," he said. "This is one of the most important elements," he added and pointed out that the third operative para of U.N. Security Council Resolution 660 calls for direct negotiations between Iraq and Kuwait.

"Without the implementation of the resolution in full, as called for by the Security Council, we will be back to square one," he said in an interview, referring to signs that the regime of Saddam Hussein may be willing to discuss disputes with Iraq as stipulated in Resolution 660.

"The extent of progress we make in following the resolution will be the determining factor in the departure of foreign forces from the region," Mr. Lawzi said.

On the broader issue of addressing all problems, including the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian question, Mr. Lawzi expressed hope that the Gulf war was a turning point in the international community's approach to regional conflicts.

"There should not be a selective application of international legitimacy; it should be applicable to everyone, regardless of everything else, on an equitable basis with no distinction whatsoever," he said.

Lower House Speaker Abdul Latif Arabyat, a leader of the Muslim Brotherhood, said while he welcomed the ceasefire and hoped that it would remain in place, the next phase in the process should be the early departure of the allied forces from the region.

Dr. Arabyat also called for "close consultations among the Arab masses over the status of inter-Arab relations."

"The consultations," he emphasised, "should involve the rank and file of the Arab World and aim at reviewing the entire situation, where we stand after the Gulf conflict, and how we can address our problems without alienating our brothers."

The targets, however, were mostly symbols of the state. Journalists watched from the windows of Al Rashid as allied missiles ripped through the Iraqi Baathist national command.

The thunderous blast came a few minutes after Baghdad Radio announced that President Saddam Hussein had presided over a meeting of the Baathist Party.

The political message was clear to the Iraqi government and people. But Iraqi officials

6 World News

Khaleda Zia's party leads in 1st free Bangladesh elections

DHAKA (AP) — The centrist party headed by Khaleda Zia, widow of an assassinated president, held the lead as votes were counted Thursday, but appeared unlikely to win a parliamentary majority, news reports said.

The elections Wednesday marked the first democratic transition of power since Bangladesh gained its independence from Pakistan in 1971. All of the country's previous nine governments took charge following coups or assassinations.

Political observers said the voting trends indicated no single party would be able to win a majority, making a hung parliament likely.

With results announced for 240 of parliament's 300 seats, Mrs. Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party had taken 109 seats, state-run television reported. Elections in two districts were cancelled because of the deaths of competing candidates.

The Awami League led by

Sheik Hasina, daughter of another assassinated president, took 75 seats. Five other seats went to small parties allied with the Awami League.

Last year the two women temporarily put aside their long-time rivalry and joined forces to lead a mass movement that forced President Hussain Muhammad Ershad to give up the power he seized in a 1982 military coup.

The opposition accused Ershad's government of corruption and authoritarian rule. He resigned on Dec. 6, and a caretaker government took over to organise the elections.

Ershad, despite being under house arrest and facing trial on charges of corruption, embezzlement and illegal possession of arms, won in five constituencies, bringing his Jatiya Party a total of 30 seats, the television reports said.

Under Bangladeshi law, candidates can run for as many as five seats, but they can keep only one. By-elections would have to be



Khaleda Zia

600 die in Zambia cholera outbreak

LUSAKA (R) — Cholera sweeping Zambia has killed nearly 600 people in the worst outbreak of the disease in this country, officials said Thursday.

"Deaths are being reported on an escalating scale. The disease is spreading from area to area and is not being contained," a senior official of the Zambia Red Cross said, adding: "It is a crisis and it is getting worse."

The official who asked not to be named, said 6,487 cases of the disease had been reported since it first broke out four months ago, with 588 deaths by last week in seven of the country's nine provinces.

At least 625 people were arrested across the country, mostly on charges of trying to cast false ballots or carrying firearms and explosives, United Nations of Bangladesh said.

One man was killed in a shoot-out between Hasina's and Mrs. Zia's supporters in Chittagong,

an election official in the port city said, speaking on condition of anonymity. Minor clashes were reported in Dhaka and other towns.

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Bangladesh said.

In a rare intervention in Thailand's stormy politics, King Bhumibol Adulyadej declined to approve a draft of the proposed constitution that would give a legal framework to a caretaker government promised by the junta.

"We do not know exactly which article was rejected, but for sure something has gone wrong," said one army source who declined to be identified.

Coup leader General Sunthorn Kongkompong flew to the northern resort of Chiang Mai Wednesday to present the interim constitution to the king after deposing the democratically elected government of Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhaven last Saturday.

Leaders of the coup would present another draft of the constitution to the monarch Friday, the military sources said.

The king is a revered figure in Thailand and normally plays no role in the day-to-day running of the government.

Thai king rejects junta's interim constitution

BANGKOK (R) — The king of Thailand has rejected an interim constitution proposed by the military junta that seized power in a bloodless coup last weekend, military sources said Thursday.

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COLUMN 8

Archbishop regrets remark on women priests

LONDON (AP) — The next Archbishop of Canterbury has said he regretted describing opposition to women priests as "heresy" in a recent interview that created religious controversy. The Rt. Rev. George Carey, who will be enthroned in April as the Church of England's new spiritual leader, said he "unintentionally caused offense" when he said the belief that only men can "represent Christ at the altar" is "a most serious heresy."

"Controversy has been stirred by my use of the word 'heresy' in an interview I gave to the Reader's Digest," Carey said in a statement from the archbishop's Lambeth Palace office in London.

Rat meat makes the menu in China

PEKING (R) — Rats have made the menu in Canton, capital of south China's Guangdong province, the official Economic Information daily newspaper said Wednesday.

The region that gave Chinese cuisine snake meat, monkey's brains and roast dog, cat and bat now eats rats, the paper said. The mouse and rat meat — selling for up to 25 yuan (\$4.80) — can be served simmered, fried, stewed, smoked, fried or stir-fried.

News reports and doctors also told of a surge in cholera hospitalizations in the capital of Lima.

Peruvian Health Ministry figures released Friday said more than 26,000 cases of cholera had been confirmed and 134 or more people had died. The ministry has not offered new figures since July.

Persistent water shortages in other parts of the country have impeded efforts to improve sanitary conditions.

The Red Cross official said his group's headquarters in Lusaka were getting daily reports of deaths and fresh outbreaks. It appealed last week for assistance from its parent body, the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC).

Strong resurgence of cholera reported in Peru

LIMA (AP) — New reports showed hospitals overflowing with victims as doctors in Peru reported a strong resurgence of cholera in the northern port city of Chimbote, where Peru's deadly epidemic began.

It was pure negligence on the part of many quarters who have not done their work. This is a preventable disease... we had an outbreak last year and should have taken precautions," he said.

The three-day convention aims to elect a presidential candidate and 37 shadow cabinet ministers who will challenge Kamuda and his party at presidential and parliamentary elections this year.

Four contenders for the presidency of the democratic movement have put their names forward. The victor will challenge Kamuda at the polls.

Fredrick Chiluba, 46, chairman of the powerful 300,000-member Zambia Congress of Trade Unions, is the favourite, according to conference goers.

"Vote for the man of the people," said a pamphlet distributed to Chiluba's supporters at the convention.

The reporters said all hospital

beds were filled and that tents set up outside the hospitals were also overflowing with cholera victims.

Health Minister Carlos Vidal said he was aware of new outbreaks of cholera in Chimbote and in the coastal city of Trujillo.

News reports Wednesday said several hospitals in Lima had experienced a 50 per cent increase in the number of cholera patients registered in the past two days. They did not specify figures. Numbers of new victims elsewhere also were unavailable.

Meanwhile, the health ministers of seven South American nations — Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela, Chile and Brazil — met in Lima Wednesday to discuss ways of ending the epidemic.

Topics on the ministers' agenda included precautionary health measures, medicinal needs, and border health and customs control.

Venezuela is the only participating nation not bordering Peru.

Singaporeans too stressed

SINGAPORE (R) — Singaporean men are too busy making money to make babies, a member of parliament says.

Arthur Beng told the house he was worried that unless something was done to remedy matters, he believed the last traces of libido .. will simply evaporate." He said young people should get married and have more children, but pressures of work and reserve army duties left Singaporean males too stressed to enjoy "nuptial bliss." But he believed Singaporeans could be just as good in the bedroom as in the boardroom and suggested as a first step setting up more co-educational schools to help make males less inhibited.

In the case of Riegler, a Michigan Democrat, the committee found that he "took steps to assist Lincoln Savings and Loan Association with its regulatory problems at a time that Charles Keating was raising substantial campaign funds" for Riegler.

Panel: Cranston committed major ethical violations

Charles H. Keating Jr.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate Ethics Committee has said it found "substantial credible evidence" that Sen. Alan Cranston committed major ethical violations in his relationship with former Savings and Loans owner

discusses his troubled Lincoln Savings and Loan at a time when federal regulations were investigating the institution.

Keating and associates donated \$1.3 million to the campaigns and political causes of the five lawmakers, most of it while the Federal Home Loan Bank board was conducting its examination.

The committee also found that Sens. John Glenn and John McCain "exercised poor judgement" in their actions.

The unanimous decision by the six member committee set the stage for Cranston's case to go before the full Senate for a possible censure.

All five senators had denied any wrongdoing in their association with Keating. None of the five was immediately available for comment.

The five met with Keating to

discuss his troubled Lincoln Savings and Loan at a time when federal regulations were investigating the institution.

Keating and associates donated \$1.3 million to the campaigns and political causes of the five lawmakers, most of it while the Federal Home Loan Bank board was conducting its examination.

The committee members said they had not let the Keating five off lightly after an investigation that began in December 1989.

"I don't think you would think that you'd been judged with light if your peers had judged you as these men have been judged," said Sen. Jesse Helms.

In addition to its impact on the

Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



JUMBLE

THAT-SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

PADAT

ORXAB

NERRED

KENRAT

HOW CORN ON THE COB IS EATEN.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here. FROM [REDACTED] (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: COCA FURON DONATA WHENCE
Answer: One has to leave a date when ONE HAS TWO

THE Daily Crossword by Sidney L. Robbins

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE OUTZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you held:
Q.16 ♠ J98643 ♦ A193
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♦ Pass 1 ♦ Pass
1 ♦ Pass 1 ♦ Pass
What action do you take?
A.—You have excellent playing potential, but partner did pass your opening bid. Therefore, you should not indulge in any flights of fancy. To get your message across, just show your second suit by bidding two diamonds.

Q.2—North, vulnerable, as South you held:
♦ AK92 ♠ A10 8 ♦ AK983
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?
A.—You have an excellent suit of your own, a strong hand and two key cards in partner's suit. Tell partner the good news that slam is in the offing with a jump shift to three diamonds.

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you held:
♦ KQJ105 ♠ 774 ♦ Q8 ♦ AK6
Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?
A.—You have a very fine hand, but your spade suit isn't quite long enough to be considered a strong suit. If you use the cue-bid for some other purpose, your only option is to start with a takeout double.

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you held:
♦ Q76 ♠ 4 10652 ♦ Q6432
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♦ 2 ♦ 1 ♦ 2 ♦
What action do you take?
A.—The concept is that you need extra value to make a free rate of two spades here. You've gone the way of the doo-dah bird. However, this hand stretches the limit. Pass. It would be a much closer decision had we held a fourth spade.

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

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| 1. Gifts to the poor | 11. Enamel | 12. Rhyme scheme | 13. Tidy | 14. Booty | 15. Debris | 16. Ice float | 17. Beer | 18. Ingenuity | 19. Everything | 20. Ice float | 21. La Scala | 22. Born the -- | 23. Coleridge's "Kubla Khan" | 24. Fellow | 25. "Born the --" | 26. "Born the --" | 27. After | 28. Expenses | 29. "Born the --" | 30. "Born the --" | 31. Frosty CA | 32. Weather word | 33. Eternally | 34. Patriotic org. | 35. -- Yankee Doodle." | 36. "Doodie." | 37. Treatment | 38. Boat | 39. Bolger | 40. Give up | 41. Emma | 42. Snobish stadium | 43. Snobish | 44. "Born the --" | 45. Boat | 46. Bolger | 47. Give up | 48. Emma | 49. Snobish stadium | 50. Salary | 51. Snobish | 52. Certain deg. | 53. Alone | 54. Mouse" |
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ANSWER: **THE DODDO BIRD**

